

TAMU-Commerce Choral Conducting II
MUS 413-001
Spring 2015 Syllabus
MWF 9:00-9:50
Music Building Rm: 105

Instructor

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Office hours: Tuesday 9:00-10:00, MWF 4:00-5:00 or with appointment

Course Purpose

Intended for the undergraduate choral conductor, this course is directed towards developing a working knowledge of conducting gestures, non-verbal communication and rehearsal techniques determined to be necessary for successful conducting and teaching choral music on the secondary level.

Music Department Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Accommodation Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations will be made in accordance with the law. To request ADA accommodations, please *contact Dr. Chris White 903.886.5327 or the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Hallady Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886-5150.*

University Behavior Policy

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

Student Learning Outcome

1) Demonstrate a mastery of beginning and intermediate conducting techniques with an enabling posture and clear indications of preparatory gestures, downbeats, patterns for symmetrical and asymmetrical meters, dynamics, cues, beat subdivisions, syncopation, and alterations of tempo (i.e. tempo rubato)

- 2) Demonstrate expressive intentions through both physical conducting and oral communication
- 3) Demonstrate effective score analysis and score preparation
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of performance practice according to the various stylistic periods of composition
- 5) Demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills for error detection
- 6) Demonstrate the necessary skills to analyze, diagnose, and prescribe solutions to musical problems in a rehearsal setting
- 7) Demonstrate solfeg competency both in prepared and sight-reading applications
- 8) Critically evaluate technical and musical criteria of an ensemble rehearsal/performance.

Materials

Syllabus

Packet of Choral Music chosen from the Texas UIL PML. To purchase this packet call J.W. Pepper (817) 590-0055 ext 2551 and order the packet for A&M Commerce Choral Conducting II- Pepper # 10498552, the packet will cost \$50.00 plus s/h&tax. If you have problems, ask for Anthony Carollo.

Required Memberships

All students enrolled in MUS 410 must be an active member of TMEA and ACDA. Membership forms may be accessed online.

Class Policies

1. Attendance is imperative to success in the class. You will be the lab choir for your peers in the class. If you are not present to sing for your peers, you are jeopardizing their experience. If you miss class when you are scheduled to conduct it will be a missed experience and a 0 grade. The rehearsal cannot be made up. Attendance will be taken and your final grade will be lowered one letter for each unexcused absence. An excused absence is one that is approved prior to the absence or an extenuation circumstance.
2. The student is expected to purchase the music required for this class. This is music that will be an excellent addition to the student's personal music library and will serve as the text for the class. The student should present the music in class no later than January 30th to prove the music has been purchased. The semester grade will be lowered by one letter grade each week after Jan. 30th that the student cannot prove the music has been purchased.
3. Grades will be weighted accordingly:
 - Conducting preparation (lesson plans, flow charts and marked scores)
 - You will prepare 3 scores each worth 20 pts (60 pts total)
 - You will prepare 3 flowcharts each worth 20 pts (60 pts total)
 - You will prepare lesson plans each worth for a combined total of 180 pts.
 - Post conducting Evaluations

- You will evaluate all of the rehearsals conducted for a combined total of 180 pts.
- Conducting lessons with Ben Lampp are worth a combined total of 60 pts.
- Conducting/Rehearsal Grades
 - You will receive a grade for each rehearsal conducted for a combined total of 360 pts
- Final Mock UIL C/SR is worth 100 pts.

Assignments

1. You will be expected to practice your conducting each day for at least 30 minutes. This is imperative to your development as a conductor. The music education degree offers you a limited amount of classroom experience to develop your conducting skills. Practice and an extended amount of repetition are essential to becoming a successful conductor.
2. We will attend Region 3 MS and Var. 5A HS UIL C/SR. You should take notes on choir performances, ratings you would have given compared with ratings given, literature performed and techniques used and effectiveness in the sight reading room.
3. A conducting self-evaluation will be completed after each rehearsal. Every time you conduct you will receive a recording of your rehearsal to view for evaluation. You should use this as a tool to improve your conducting gesture, communication and rehearsal technique.
4. You will conduct three pieces this semester. For each piece you conduct you will prepare the following materials:
 - a. Conductor's marked score. Xerox your marked score and turn in the before your first rehearsal.
 - b. Conductor's analysis flowchart. Turn in before your first rehearsal. Also make enough copies to pass out to your colleagues before your first rehearsal.
5. You will rehearse the choir on many occasions. For each rehearsal you should turn in a lesson plan with TEKS for that specific rehearsal.
6. You will have an accompanist for rehearsals on piece C only. You should be prepared to play for your own rehearsals for pieces A & B. .
7. One person has been assigned to lead warm-ups each day. Please plan a 5 min. warm up procedure for the choir. No lesson plan needs to be turned in for warm ups.
8. All materials must be turned in before your first rehearsal. If you do not have materials to turn in, you will forfeit your rehearsal and receive a 0 for that rehearsal grade.
9. The final will be a mock UIL C/SR event. You will conduct your choir on one UIL PML piece and lead them through the sight-reading process. Guest judges will be here to adjudicate your performance and sight reading.